10 years of MapRoulette
Looking back, and ahead
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Thanks to all who made it possible for us to be here today.

Celebrate connections.
Celebrate OSM.
Let’s turn the clock back 14 years...
Hi there,

I just spent a few hours working on Milwaukee, WI and started browsing the wiki. I noticed that someone is importing TIGER line data. I didn't get the impression that anyone was positive about whether pre-existing OSM data would be merged with TIGER data or if one or the other would get erased or duplicated.

Should I keep making changes to the map or should I wait for the TIGER data to show up?

–Ian
Then the License Change happened (2012)

OSM changed the license of the map data from Creative Commons to ODbL in 2012. All mappers who had contributed needed to agree to keep their data in the map.

This made the situation in the United States worse

Map Data from mappers who could not be reached or didn’t agree was deleted
Great blog post about the effort to contact mappers about the license change here http://ksmapper.blogspot.com/2012/10/licensed-to-map-what-happened-to-la.html.html
"a tiger holding a map screaming, sad", DALL-E 2
An enormous clean up and improvement effort was needed.

The community was still quite small in 2012 with <100 daily active mappers.

Something was needed to organize the work.
So the idea of MapRoulette was born: A tool to work on small, randomly assigned tasks.

The aims were:
1. To make a huge mapping effort feel more doable by breaking it up in small tasks
2. Make repetitive mapping more fun
Remapping all motorways / trunks in 1 week

Remapping all other roads in 3 more weeks

11,000 total fixes in 4 weeks
(with <200 daily active mappers in the US)
MapRoulette proved to be a great way to focus the community on a mapping goal. So I decided to try other projects!
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70,000 in 6 weeks
Zorro Ways
(ways that have unusual sharp angles)
Finally, I decided to give the tool a name **MapRoulette** and make it more useful by letting **anyone create their own tasks**.

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**Most Requested Features**

- "I want to work on my local area only"
- "I want to submit my own challenges"
- "I want non-US challenges"
- "I want more different things to work on"

- Built in, needs user interface
- There's an API for submitting & maintaining challenges
- We have multiple parallel challenges
Fast forward to today

2012

2022
MapRoulette is still a great tool to make repetitive mapping fun and work together on large mapping tasks.
What can MapRoulette do today?

- anyone can create challenges
- available in 17 languages
- teams and task review
- a free and open API
- documentation + learning resources
- different challenge types: virtual, tag fix, and cooperative challenges
Virtual Challenge

- Create your own challenges from already existing tasks
- Use search / filter tools and draw polygon on map
- Useful for mapping parties where you want a smaller goal
Quick Fix Challenge

- Tag changes pre-defined
- No editing in iD or JOSM needed
- Useful for manual cleanup of deprecated tagging
Cooperative Challenge

- Tasks have built-in changesets
- Appear as separate data layer in JOSM
- Useful for manual review and adding of external data
A cooperative Challenge
What have mappers accomplished with MapRoulette?
OSM Philippines added 40,000 paaralan (public schools) to the map using MapRoulette and official data.

Of course, there are challenges when managing large-scale MapRoulette challenges. According to Erwin Elario, "The main challenge for this project is getting OSM license-compatible data, and the data clean-up that had to be done before getting it to the tasking manager... With the on-going review, mapping and validation, we are confident that public school data we now have in OSM are better than the official DepEd data, albeit still incomplete."
OSM Belgium have their own tasking tool called MapComplete (check it out). They are also using MapRoulette to check OSM against official data.

There are road and sign related challenges, and more recently challenges to add / improve vineyards and hop fields.

In Flanders, vineyards and hop fields are mapped very well. A while ago, @osm_be compared OSM data with government data (from @DepartementLV) and mapped missing parcels using @maproulette.
“Parklets” in Berlin

Berlin has an initiative to create parklets throughout the city. The OpenStreetMap Parkraum Project aims to add these to OSM.

They use a MapRoulette challenge to do this.

Each task is linked to a recent Mapillary image to verify the parklet exists.
What’s next for MapRoulette?
More Integrations with other apps
StreetComplete / GoMap!! / MapComplete / Vespucci / OSMAnd / (Rap)iD

- make the API easier to access
- encourage ‘local knowledge required’ challenges

There are plenty of good mobile apps
I don’t think we need a MapRoulette Mobile, but perhaps make maproulette.org mobile friendly?
MapRoulette - Vespucci integration
Improved communication between challenge makers and mappers

The tools are there but sometimes too hidden away. It needs to be very easy to communicate.

More accountability for challenge makers

We already have auto-archiving and improved notifications to challenge makers when their challenges are completed. This can be further improved.
Better discovery

More ways to search and filter. Make it easier to split a challenge into smaller areas. Making sure that challenges are current and relevant.

Reconsider the Task Lifecycle

“Too Hard”, “Can’t Fix” “Skip”, “Already Fixed” confusing too many mappers. Make these actions clearer? Add more options? Perhaps “Request Help From Local Mapper”? 
Thank you!
Let me know your ideas for MapRoulette

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